

The Black Worker in New York

The Circle of Discrimination. By Herman D. Bloch. New York: New York University Press; London: University of London Press, 1969, 274 pp., index.

PROFESSOR BLOCH'S STUDY is defined by its subtitle: *An Economic and Social Study of the Black Man in New York*. The Black American, for 300 years after his introduction to New York, still encounters discrimination in areas like employment opportunities, housing, political participation and social and cultural organizations. Yet he persists in his efforts to achieve equal opportunity in employment through his own organizations or in conjunction with private and governmental organizations. This is fortunate, for equality of economic opportunity may well be the key to solution of the other problems. Professor Bloch's book brings the valuable resources of social history and social science analysis to the Black American's aid in his struggle to help the White American achieve liberation from the shackles of ignorance, fear and hatred which continue to impoverish the White American and his fellow citizens through discrimination.

W. L.

Memoir to a Very Great American

The American Century of John C. Lincoln. By Raymond Moley. New York: Duell, Sloane and Pearce; Toronto: General Publishing Co., 1962, 209 pp., index.

JOHN C. LINCOLN (1866-1959), electrical engineer and inventor of arc welding systems and other devices and systems, established the Lincoln Electric Company in Cleveland in 1895 with a capital of \$200. He also founded other flourishing concerns, and like Rockefeller, Ford and Firestone, to name just a few contemporaries, was a pioneer entrepreneur at the birth of the modern era of technology.

What distinguished John Lincoln, however, was that, encouraged by a devoted family, he dreamed of using study and research to achieve social and economic justice for all, in a regime constantly expanding the scope of individual liberty and promoting social responsibility. This dream was kindled in him by participation in the progressive movement in Ohio led by Tom Johnson and Newton Baker and other followers of Henry George.

John Lincoln used to drop by my office in Times Square regularly in the days in the 1930s and 40s when he was making his plans to achieve

his dream through foundations to be set up after his death. He would discuss his plans, eliciting my opinions and information with searching questions. Then we would drop by a restaurant for a snack or a meal—it was always a moderate-priced one, so that the tab, when it was my turn to pick it up, would be within my means—and I would walk him to the Prince George Hotel where he always stayed, a half mile away. No matter what the weather he would never take a cab.

The institutions that he set up are, for the most part, doing notable work, especially the Lincoln Foundation which has done so much to encourage scientific research in public finance. I like to think of them as projections of the remarkable personality of John Lincoln, whose wholly unaffected friendship I treasured.

This biography was begun by another man whose friendship I cherished, the Cleveland journalist, John Love. He too used to drop by my office on his frequent trips to New York, and I by his on my occasional visits to Cleveland. His untimely death obliged the distinguished journalist and political scientist, Raymond Moley, to undertake the task. He has done it well, capturing all facets of John Lincoln's personality. Mr. Moley has put all the friends of John Lincoln in his debt and it is a pleasant duty to record that it is a heavy one.

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